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UNITED PRESS
INTERNATIONAL
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(INTELLIGENCE)

JULY 18, 1963

CPYRGHT

WASHINGTON--REP. JAMES C. FULTON OF PENNSYLVANIA, SECOND-RANKING REPUBLICAN ON THE HOUSE SPACE COMMITTEE, ACCUSED THE ADMINISTRATION TODAY OF AN "INTELLIGENCE GAP" ON SOVIET SPACE PLANS.

"THE GAP IS SO BIG YOU COULD FIRE THE BIGGEST MISSILE THROUGH IT," FULTON TOLD UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL.

THE MADE THE COMMENT FOLLOWING A CLOSED-DOOR COMMITTEE BRIEFING BY THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

FULTON, ALTHOUGH DISCLOSING NO DETAILS OF THE HUSH-HUSH SESSION, SAID MOST OF THE INFORMATION GIVEN THE LAWMAKERS COULD BE FOUND IN THE "PUBLIC PRINT" OR GOTTEN FROM THE UNITED NATIONS.

THE GOP CONGRESSMAN SAID HE LISTENED TO THE CIA BRIEFING BUT LATER WALKED OUT BECAUSE "IT WAS NOT WORTHWHILE." HE SAID OTHER REPUBLICAN MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE GROUP ALSO WERE "SHOCKED" BY THE CIA'S LACK OF DATA.

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FULTON SAID THE INFORMATION WASN'T MUCH DIFFERENT THAN THAT GATHERED BY THE CIA DURING THE EISENHOWER ADMINISTRATION.

MEANWHILE, OTHER SOURCES SAID THE COMMITTEE QUESTIONED THE CIA ABOUT REPORTS THAT RUSSIANS HAVE SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT THE VALUE OF PUTTING A MAN ON THE MOON.

ONE LAWMAKER SAID THAT AS FAR AS HE COULD DETERMINE THERE WAS NO INDICATION ANYWHERE THE RUSSIANS EVEN PLAN TO LAND ON THE MOON. HE SAID ALL SIGNS POINTED TO THE SOVIETS SOMEDAY ARRIVING AT THE MOON IN A SPACECRAFT BUT NOT ACTUALLY TOUCHING DOWN.

PROF. SIR BERNARD LOVELL, DIRECTOR OF THE JODRELL BANK RADIO-ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY IN ENGLAND, SAID MONDAY THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL OF DISCUSSION IN THE SOVIET ACADEMY AS TO WHETHER IT WAS A WORTHWHILE GETTING A MAN ON THE MOON. HE MADE THE COMMENT UPON HIS RETURN FROM A THREE-WEEK VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION TO INSPECT SPACE TRACKING STATIONS.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY SAID AT HIS NEWS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD NO CHANGE OF MIND ON ITS PLANS OF GOING TO THE MOON, SOMETIME BEFORE 1970.

HE SAID A SUCCESSFUL MOON FLIGHT WAS "ESSENTIAL TO THE UNITED STATES AS A LEADING FREE WORLD POWER" BECAUSE IT WOULD DEMONSTRATE THE "CAPACITY TO DOMINATE SPACE."

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